

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 01803 092045Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----092050Z 091658 /73

O 091934Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 9279

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1803

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SOPN, SP  
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S CONCERN OVER NEGATIVE PRESS ARTICLE  
ON POTENTIAL PRIME MINISTER VISIT TO US

REF: MADRID 1800

1. FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA CALLED ME THIS AFTERNOON VERY UPSET OVER THE POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACT OF THE DIARIO 16 ARTICLE REPORTED IN REFTEL ON THE POTENTIAL SUAREZ VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. HE NOTED THE BANNER FRONT PAGE HEAD LINES TO THE EFFECT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER DOES NOT WANT TO SEE PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ NOW BECAUSE THE US GOVERNMENT THINKS A SUAREZ VISIT BEFORE THE ELECTIONS COULD INFLUENCE THE SPANISH ELECTIONS. THE FULL ARTICLE UNDER THE BY LINE OF ALBERTO VALVERDE ON AN INSIDE PAGE. ALSO GIVE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE IS A SIMPLE PROBLEM OF COORDINATION ON CONVENIENT DATES IN VIEW OF OTHER TRAVEL PLANS OF THE PRINCIPALS BUT THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS OBVIOUSLY MOST CONCERNED BY THE HEADLINE AND THE EFFECT THAT OTHER PARTS OF THE ARTICLE SPECULATING ALONG THE SAME LINE COULD HAVE. HE ASKED THAT I CONTACT WASHINGTON TO SEE WHETHER THERE COULD NOT BE AN IMMEDIATE ANNOUNCEMENT WITH REGARD TO AN EARLY VISIT IN ORDER TO COUNTERACT THE DAMAGE THAT THIS TYPE OF PUBLICITY WOULD DO.

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2. AFTER TELEPHONIC CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT, I CALLED FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA BACK TO SAY THAT NO ANNOUNCEMENT COULD BE MADE AT THIS TIME AND TO TELL HIM WHAT THE EMBASSY PLANNED TO SAY TO ANY QUERIES. SAID WE WOULD SAY IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES THAT THE ARTICLE IS OBVIOUSLY HIGHLY SPECULATIVE AND THAT WE ARE NOT ABLE TO

CONFIRM ANY PART OF IT. I ALSO TOLD OREJA THAT SINCE THE ARTICLE IS REplete WITH REFERENCES TO "NORTH AMERICAN" OR "WASHINGTON" OR "STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMEN" SOURCES, THE US PRESS MAY ASK QUESTIONS IN WASHINGTON. I DID NOT KNOW AT THIS TIME HOW WASHINGTON MIGHT RESPOND IF THIS OCCURED. I ASKED HIM IF THE GOS HAD YET DECIDED HOW IT WOULD RESPOND TO ANY QUERIES. HE SAID IT HAD NOT.

3. OREJA WENT ON TO SAY THAT VAGUEENESS AND LACK OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF A PRECISE DATA SOON COULD BE VERY BAD IN VIEW OF THE SPECULATION AND COMMENT THE DIARIO 16 ARTICEL COULD ENGENDER. THEREFORE, UNLESS A DATE COULD BE ANNOUNCED SOON (HE MENTIONED WITHIN 48 HOURS) THE GOS MIGHT HAVE TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO CALL THE PROPOSED TRIP OFF FOR THE TIME BEING. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR ROVIRA ON THE MATTER. WHICH PRESUMABLY MEANS ROVIRA WILL BE CALLING THE DEPARTMENT.

4. I TOLD OREJA THAT WE WOULD ADVISE HIM IMMEDIATELY IF THERE WERE ANY DEVELOPMENTS.

5. A DEFINITE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A SPECIFIC EARLY DATE FOR THE VISIT. OBVIOUSLY WOULD BE THE IDEAL AT THIS POINT. SHORT OF THAT, A PUBLIC STATMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT A VISIT IN THE MONTHS OF APRIL OR MAY IS BEING CONSIDERED BUT THAT SPECIFIC MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATES THAT FIT THE SCHEDULES OF THE PRINCIPALS ARE YET TO BE WORKED OUT WOULD BE HELPFUL AT THIS DELICATE JUNCTURE.EATON

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** FOREIGN MINISTER'S CONCERN OVER NEGATIVE PRESS ARTICLE ON POTENTIAL PRIME MINISTER VISIT TO US  
**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, SOPN, SP, US, (SUAREZ GONZALEZ, ADOLFO), (OREJA AGUIRRE, MARCELINO)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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